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January 24, 2002 LB 82, 497

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, have some questions on LB 497 that has been amended into this bill. I've received a number of calls from my local law enforcement agencies, feeling that this is certainly going to be a additional burden for them, that we're looking at another mandate, so to speak. Senator Bourne, could you address that again?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR STUHR: I...

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly.

SENATOR STUHR: ...I don't think, evidently the amendment is...maybe there's some intent that is not specifically clarified. I think they're feeling that with every arrest that they make that they must have some kind of recording device, and every officer will now be required to carry a recording device at all time. Is that...is that true?

SENATOR BOURNE: That's not, as I...that's not what I believe the committee amendment reads, nor do I believe that's the intent of the language in the...in the amendment. The bill specifically says that, and Senator Bruning is going introduce an amendment on this in a little bit, I don't think that that's a bad amendment, because I think it does help some of the concerns that some of your constituents have. But again, I want to indicate that there were three people that testified against this at the hearing. And the majority of their concerns were, yes, a couple of them said that this was going to present some costs and that officers had to have then a voice recorder, you know, a little Dictaphone. But the biggest concern, and if you'd like to read the transcripts I have them, but the biggest concern was is that what happens if after we've interrogated an individual and the tape recording, you know, the batteries had run out, or...

SENATOR STUHR: Right.